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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/701,242	02/01/2001	Fumio Nagasaka	107926	7319
25944	7590	05/16/2006		
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 19928 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320			EXAMINER PATEL, HARESH N	
			ART UNIT 2154	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 05/16/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/701,242	NAGASAKA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Haresh Patel	2154	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 February 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 3,13,15,16,21,23,25 and 26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 3,13,15,16,21,23,25 and 26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 3, 13, 15, 16, 21, 23, 25 and 26 are subject to examination. Claims 1, 2, 4-12, 14, 17-20, 22, 24, 27-30 are cancelled.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 2/13/2006, pages 8-20, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Therefore, rejection of claims 3, 13, 15, 16, 21, 23, 25 and 26 is maintained.

Applicant argues (1), "the cited references do not disclose, teach, or suggest the applicant's claimed individual symbols corresponding to individuals and data symbols as per figures 9(a) and 9(b) i.e., the individual symbols corresponding to individuals are photographs corresponding to respective individuals and the data symbols are icons representing respective data stored in a camera device".

The examiner respectfully disagrees in response to applicant's arguments. In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies, "the individual symbols corresponding to individuals are photographs corresponding to respective individuals and the data symbols are icons representing respective data stored in a camera device", are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993). The First inquiry must be into exactly what the claims define. See *In re Wilder*, 166 USPQ 545, 548 (CCPA 1970). What is claimed is, see claim 3 which is related to the above arguments, "application unit that causes individual symbols corresponding to

Art Unit: 2154

individuals and device symbols corresponding to devices”. Please refer to the below rejections of this office action to the newly presented amended claims. Therefore, the rejection is maintained. The specification of this application clearly states, “In the specification hereof, the individual descriptions and the device descriptions include the names of the individuals and devices as well as any other descriptions used to identify the individuals and devices, such as identification numbers and codes. The device symbols include icons that are pictorial representations of devices as well as any other user-recognizable representations that can be displayed on the screen, such as letters or characters, figures, symbols, codes, and colors corresponding to the devices. These are also applicable to individual symbols and data symbols discussed later. In the case of the individual symbols, a photograph sym o or an illustration of an individual may be used for the pictorial representation of the individual”, page 4, lines 20 –25, Since, applicant's claims contain broadly claimed subject matter, it clearly reads upon the examiner's interpretation of the claimed subject matter. Therefore, the rejection is maintained.

Applicant argues (2), “the cited art Hamner et al., 5,796,951 (Hereinafter Hamner) fails to teach or suggest displaying individual symbols corresponding to individuals, device symbols corresponding to devices, mapping a desired device symbol to a specific individual symbol and obtaining and displaying individual description and/or device description information relating to the mapping”. The examiner respectfully disagrees in response to applicant's arguments. The limitations, “displaying individual symbols corresponding to individuals”, are rejected by combined teachings of Hamner et al., 5,796,951 (Hereinafter Hamner), Minasi (“Mastering Windows NT Server 4”, fifth edition, 1998, pages 343 – 373, Hereinafter Minasi), Person, “Using Windows 95”, Special edition, 1995, pages 105-107 and IDEHARA (“Input-Output

Art Unit: 2154

Apparatus selecting method for network system”, 12/20/2001, US 2001/0552995, Hereinafter IDEHARA. In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986). Hamner discloses what the claimed invention accomplishes, i.e., a device retrieving apparatus that retrieves a device among a plurality of devices present on a network (e.g., abstract). Hamner discloses individual symbols corresponding to individuals and device symbols corresponding to devices to be displayed on the screen of said display unit (e.g., figure 2A, figure 2B, col., 4, lines 17 – 32), to link a desired first device symbol among the device symbols displayed on the screen to a specific individual symbol corresponding to the desired individual (e.g., col., 4, lines 10- 48), specifying an individual description of the desired individual corresponding to the mapped individual symbol as a specific individual description (e.g., col., 6, lines 14 – 43, figure 2A), obtaining a device description mapped to the specific individual description out of mapping information (e.g., col., 5, lines 53 – 64), mapping of a plurality of individual descriptions to device descriptions expressing said plurality of devices present on the network (e.g., col., 6, lines 52 – 66), causing at least one of the obtained device description and a second device symbol representing a device (e.g., col., 6, lines 25 – 49) expressed by the obtained device description to be displayed on the screen of said display unit (e.g., col., 4, lines 4-48, abstract, figures 1-2). Minasi, discloses the well-known concept of mapping to a desired person (e.g., assignment of user specific information, page 349, table, 6.1, pages 350-351, figure 6.9, page 364) using person symbol (e.g., symbols for Eric, Darcee, Administrator, etc, figure 6.15, page 372) and the selected person information (e.g., Eric

Art Unit: 2154

being research assistant, etc, figure 6.15, page 372, user information, page 349, table, 6.1, pages 350-351, figure 6.9, page 364). Person, discloses well-known concept of mapping one software item to another software item (e.g., drag and drop method can be used to drag one software item and drop on another software item, page 105 – page 107). IDEHARA discloses well-known concept of usage of a database in a server / apparatus connected to the network for the individuals (e.g., paragraph 148, page 10, figures 24 and 29). With the combined teachings of Hamner, Minasi, Person and IDEHARA, the usage of individual person symbol and person information would help identify individual person symbol and correspondingly manage the information for the individual person. The user symbol would help the user manage its own personal settings of the desired items. A device retrieving apparatus would be able retrieve a device among a plurality of devices present on a network for a specific individual. Also, page 31, lines 20-23 of the specification, clearly states, “The display of icons may be replaced with the display of only series of characters or letters representing the individual names, the device names, and the data names or with the display of figures, symbols, codes, or colors corresponding to these names”, page 30, lines 1 –5 of the specification, states, “The present invention is not restricted to the above embodiment or its modifications, but there may be many other modifications, changes, and alterations without departing from the scope or spirit of the main characteristics of the present invention”. Since, applicant's claims contain broadly claimed subject matter, it clearly reads upon the examiner's interpretation of the claimed subject matter. Therefore, the rejection is maintained.

Applicant argues (3), “the cited art Minasi (“Mastering Windows NT Server 4”, fifth edition, 1998, pages 343 – 373, Hereinafter Minasi) fails to teach or suggest displaying

Art Unit: 2154

individual symbols corresponding to individuals, device symbols corresponding to devices, mapping a desired device symbol to a specific individual symbol and obtaining and displaying individual description and/or device description information relating to the mapping”. The examiner respectfully disagrees in response to applicant's arguments. The limitations, “displaying individual symbols corresponding to individuals”, are rejected by combined teachings of Hamner et al., 5,796,951 (Hereinafter Hamner), Minasi (“Mastering Windows NT Server 4”, fifth edition, 1998, pages 343 – 373, Hereinafter Minasi), Person, “Using Windows 95”, Special edition, 1995, pages 105-107 and IDEHARA (“Input-Output Apparatus selecting method for network system”, 12/20/2001, US 2001/0552995, Hereinafter IDEHARA. In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986). Hamner discloses what the claimed invention accomplishes, i.e., a device retrieving apparatus that retrieves a device among a plurality of devices present on a network (e.g., abstract). Hamner discloses individual symbols corresponding to individuals and device symbols corresponding to devices to be displayed on the screen of said display unit (e.g., figure 2A, figure 2B, col., 4, lines 17 – 32), to link a desired first device symbol among the device symbols displayed on the screen to a specific individual symbol corresponding to the desired individual (e.g., col., 4, lines 10- 48), specifying an individual description of the desired individual corresponding to the mapped individual symbol as a specific individual description (e.g., col., 6, lines 14 – 43, figure 2A), obtaining a device description mapped to the specific individual description out of mapping information (e.g., col., 5, lines 53 –

Art Unit: 2154

64), mapping of a plurality of individual descriptions to device descriptions expressing said plurality of devices present on the network (e.g., col., 6, lines 52 – 66), causing at least one of the obtained device description and a second device symbol representing a device (e.g., col., 6, lines 25 – 49) expressed by the obtained device description to be displayed on the screen of said display unit (e.g., col., 4, lines 4-48, abstract, figures 1-2). Minasi, discloses the well-known concept of mapping to a desired person (e.g., assignment of user specific information, page 349, table, 6.1, pages 350-351, figure 6.9, page 364) using person symbol (e.g., symbols for Eric, Darcee, Administrator, etc, figure 6.15, page 372) and the selected person information (e.g., Eric being research assistant, etc, figure 6.15, page 372, user information, page 349, table, 6.1, pages 350-351, figure 6.9, page 364). Person, discloses well-known concept of mapping one software item to another software item (e.g., drag and drop method can be used to drag one software item and drop on another software item, page 105 – page 107). IDEHARA discloses well-known concept of usage of a database in a server / apparatus connected to the network for the individuals (e.g., paragraph 148, page 10, figures 24 and 29). With the combined teachings of Hamner, Minasi, Person and IDEHARA, the usage of individual person symbol and person information would help identify individual person symbol and correspondingly manage the information for the individual person. The user symbol would help the user manage its own personal settings of the desired items. A device retrieving apparatus would be able retrieve a device among a plurality of devices present on a network for a specific individual. Also, page 31, lines 20-23 of the specification, clearly states, “The display of icons may be replaced with the display of only series of characters or letters representing the individual names, the device names, and the data names or with the display of figures, symbols, codes, or colors

Art Unit: 2154

corresponding to these names”, page 30, lines 1 –5 of the specification, states, “The present invention is not restricted to the above embodiment or its modifications, but there may be many other modifications, changes, and alterations without departing from the scope or spirit of the main characteristics of the present invention”. Since, applicant's claims contain broadly claimed subject matter, it clearly reads upon the examiner's interpretation of the claimed subject matter. Therefore, the rejection is maintained.

Applicant argues (4), “the cited art Person, “Using Windows 95”, Special edition, 1995, pages 105-107 fails to teach or suggest displaying individual symbols corresponding to individuals, device symbols corresponding to devices, mapping a desired device symbol to a specific individual symbol and obtaining and displaying individual description and/or device description information relating to the mapping”. The examiner respectfully disagrees in response to applicant's arguments. The limitations, “displaying individual symbols corresponding to individuals”, are rejected by combined teachings of Hamner et al., 5,796,951 (Hereinafter Hamner), Minasi (“Mastering Windows NT Server 4”, fifth edition, 1998, pages 343 – 373, Hereinafter Minasi), Person and IDEHARA (“Input-Output Apparatus selecting method for network system”, 12/20/2001, US 2001/0552995, Hereinafter IDEHARA. In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986). Hamner discloses what the claimed invention accomplishes, i.e., a device retrieving apparatus that retrieves a device among a plurality of devices present on a network (e.g., abstract). Hamner discloses individual symbols

Art Unit: 2154

corresponding to individuals and device symbols corresponding to devices to be displayed on the screen of said display unit (e.g., figure 2A, figure 2B, col., 4, lines 17 – 32), to link a desired first device symbol among the device symbols displayed on the screen to a specific individual symbol corresponding to the desired individual (e.g., col., 4, lines 10- 48), specifying an individual description of the desired individual corresponding to the mapped individual symbol as a specific individual description (e.g., col., 6, lines 14 – 43, figure 2A), obtaining a device description mapped to the specific individual description out of mapping information (e.g., col., 5, lines 53 – 64), mapping of a plurality of individual descriptions to device descriptions expressing said plurality of devices present on the network (e.g., col., 6, lines 52 – 66), causing at least one of the obtained device description and a second device symbol representing a device (e.g., col., 6, lines 25 – 49) expressed by the obtained device description to be displayed on the screen of said display unit (e.g., col., 4, lines 4-48, abstract, figures 1-2). Minasi, discloses the well-known concept of mapping to a desired person (e.g., assignment of user specific information, page 349, table, 6.1, pages 350-351, figure 6.9, page 364) using person symbol (e.g., symbols for Eric, Darcee, Administrator, etc, figure 6.15, page 372) and the selected person information (e.g., Eric being research assistant, etc, figure 6.15, page 372, user information, page 349, table, 6.1, pages 350-351, figure 6.9, page 364). Person, discloses well-known concept of mapping one software item to another software item (e.g., drag and drop method can be used to drag one software item and drop on another software item, page 105 – page 107). IDEHARA discloses well-known concept of usage of a database in a server / apparatus connected to the network for the individuals (e.g., paragraph 148, page 10, figures 24 and 29). With the combined teachings of Hamner, Minasi, Person and IDEHARA, the usage of individual person symbol and person

Art Unit: 2154

information would help identify individual person symbol and correspondingly manage the information for the individual person. The user symbol would help the user manage its own personal settings of the desired items. A device retrieving apparatus would be able retrieve a device among a plurality of devices present on a network for a specific individual. Also, page 31, lines 20-23 of the specification, clearly states, "The display of icons may be replaced with the display of only series of characters or letters representing the individual names, the device names, and the data names or with the display of figures, symbols, codes, or colors corresponding to these names", page 30, lines 1 –5 of the specification, states, "The present invention is not restricted to the above embodiment or its modifications, but there may be many other modifications, changes, and alterations without departing from the scope or spirit of the main characteristics of the present invention". Since, applicant's claims contain broadly claimed subject matter, it clearly reads upon the examiner's interpretation of the claimed subject matter. Therefore, the rejection is maintained.

Applicant argues (5), "the cited art IDEHARA ("Input-Output Apparatus selecting method for network system", 12/20/2001, US 2001/0552995, Hereinafter IDEHARA fails to teach or suggest displaying individual symbols corresponding to individuals, device symbols corresponding to devices, mapping a desired device symbol to a specific individual symbol and obtaining and displaying individual description and/or device description information relating to the mapping". The examiner respectfully disagrees in response to applicant's arguments. The limitations, "displaying individual symbols corresponding to individuals", are rejected by combined teachings of Hamner et al., 5,796,951 (Hereinafter Hamner), Minasi ("Mastering Windows NT Server 4", fifth edition, 1998, pages 343 – 373, Hereinafter Minasi), Person,

Art Unit: 2154

“Using Windows 95”, Special edition, 1995, pages 105-107 and IDEHARA. In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986). Hamner discloses what the claimed invention accomplishes, i.e., a device retrieving apparatus that retrieves a device among a plurality of devices present on a network (e.g., abstract). Hamner discloses individual symbols corresponding to individuals and device symbols corresponding to devices to be displayed on the screen of said display unit (e.g., figure 2A, figure 2B, col., 4, lines 17 – 32), to link a desired first device symbol among the device symbols displayed on the screen to a specific individual symbol corresponding to the desired individual (e.g., col., 4, lines 10- 48), specifying an individual description of the desired individual corresponding to the mapped individual symbol as a specific individual description (e.g., col., 6, lines 14 – 43, figure 2A), obtaining a device description mapped to the specific individual description out of mapping information (e.g., col., 5, lines 53 – 64), mapping of a plurality of individual descriptions to device descriptions expressing said plurality of devices present on the network (e.g., col., 6, lines 52 – 66), causing at least one of the obtained device description and a second device symbol representing a device (e.g., col., 6, lines 25 – 49) expressed by the obtained device description to be displayed on the screen of said display unit (e.g., col., 4, lines 4-48, abstract, figures 1-2). Minasi, discloses the well-known concept of mapping to a desired person (e.g., assignment of user specific information, page 349, table, 6.1, pages 350-351, figure 6.9, page 364) using person symbol (e.g., symbols for Eric, Darcee, Administrator, etc, figure 6.15, page 372) and the selected person information (e.g., Eric being

Art Unit: 2154

research assistant, etc, figure 6.15, page 372, user information, page 349, table, 6.1, pages 350-351, figure 6.9, page 364). Person, discloses well-known concept of mapping one software item to another software item (e.g., drag and drop method can be used to drag one software item and drop on another software item, page 105 – page 107). IDEHARA discloses well-known concept of usage of a database in a server / apparatus connected to the network for the individuals (e.g., paragraph 148, page 10, figures 24 and 29). With the combined teachings of Hamner, Minasi, Person and IDEHARA, the usage of individual person symbol and person information would help identify individual person symbol and correspondingly manage the information for the individual person. The user symbol would help the user manage its own personal settings of the desired items. A device retrieving apparatus would be able retrieve a device among a plurality of devices present on a network for a specific individual. Also, page 31, lines 20-23 of the specification, clearly states, “The display of icons may be replaced with the display of only series of characters or letters representing the individual names, the device names, and the data names or with the display of figures, symbols, codes, or colors corresponding to these names”, page 30, lines 1 –5 of the specification, states, “The present invention is not restricted to the above embodiment or its modifications, but there may be many other modifications, changes, and alterations without departing from the scope or spirit of the main characteristics of the present invention”. Since, applicant's claims contain broadly claimed subject matter, it clearly reads upon the examiner's interpretation of the claimed subject matter. Therefore, the rejection is maintained.

Applicant argues, (6) “the Minasi (“Mastering Windows NT Server 4”, fifth edition, 1998, pages 343 – 373, Hereinafter Minasi) reference does not disclose, “person symbols and

Art Unit: 2154

person information”. The examiner respectfully disagrees in response to applicant's arguments. Minasi teaches the limitations, “person symbols (e.g., symbols for Eric, Darcee, Administrator, etc, figure 6.15, page 372) and person information (e.g., Eric being research assistant, etc, figure 6.15, page 372, user information, page 349, table, 6.1, pages 350-351, figure 6.9, page 364)”. Since, applicant's claims contain broadly claimed subject matter, it clearly reads upon the examiner's interpretation of these actions. Therefore, the rejection is maintained.

Applicant argues, (7) “the combined teachings of the cited references may disclose all of the features of the claims but the motivation is inadequate to combine the references as the prior art references fail to provide a suggestion or motivation and the combination of references is made using improper hindsight reconstruction of the references”. The examiner respectfully disagrees in response to applicant's arguments. What applicant is trying to accomplish as an invention, i.e., a device retrieving apparatus that retrieves a device among a plurality of devices present on a network, is clearly taught by Hamner et al., 5,796,951, see abstract. The well-known concept of assigning network resource to a desired person, (e.g., table, 6.1, pages 350-351, figure 6.9, page 364, figure 6.15, page 372, user related information on page 349), is taught by Minasi. The well known concept of dragging a software item and dropping it on another software item is taught by Person, “Using Windows 95”, Special edition, 1995, pages 105-107. Minasi's teachings of having user related information would help assign a network resource to a desired person. Hence, the user would be able to easily identify their personal items and manage their own personal settings. Person's teachings of dragging a software item and dropping it on another software item would help mapping of the user and the user related information. Also, the test for obviousness is not whether the features of a secondary reference may be bodily

Art Unit: 2154

incorporated into the structure of a primary reference. It is also not that the claimed invention must be expressly suggested in any one or all of the references. Rather, the test is what the combined teachings of the references would have suggested to those of ordinary skill in the art. In *re Keller*, 642 F.2d 414, 425, 208 USPQ 871, 881 (CCPA 1981); In *re Young*, 927 F.2d 588, 591, 18 USPQ2d 1089, 1091 (Fed. Cir. 1991). In response to applicant's argument that the examiner's conclusion of obviousness is based upon improper hindsight reasoning, it must be recognized that any judgment on obviousness is in a sense necessarily a reconstruction based upon hindsight reasoning. But so long as it takes into account only knowledge which was within the level of ordinary skill at the time the claimed invention was made, and does not include knowledge gleaned only from the applicant's disclosure, such a reconstruction is proper. See *In re McLaughlin*, 443 F.2d 1392, 170 USPQ 209 (CCPA 1971). Therefore, the rejection is maintained.

Priority

3. Applicant was requested (previous office actions dated, 8/30/2004 and 4/15/2005) to submit the translated priority document in English for the foreign priority document (i.e., claimed priority, JAPAN H-1191196 03/31/1999) for verification, in order to benefit the effective date as 03/31/1999. However, examiner has still not received the English translated foreign priority document. Examiner has not applied prior arts that are available for the rejection (dated between the claimed France priority date 03/31/1999 and the effective date, 3/31/2000 of this application). Applicant is requested to respond/submit the English translated foreign priority document, which would help the examiner to know whether to apply, the above-mentioned prior arts dated between 03/31/1999 and 3/31/2000 (see 37 CFR 1.55(a)(3)) and MPEP 706.02(b)).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 3, 15, 16, 21, 25 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hamner in view of Minasi, Person and IDEHARA and Malkin et al., 5,940,391 (Hereinafter Malkin).

6. As per claims 3 and 21, Hamner discloses a device retrieving apparatus that retrieves a device among a plurality of devices present on a network (e.g., abstract), comprising:

a display unit having a screen (e.g., col., 3, lines 6 – 24, figure 2A),

an input that is used to externally input an instruction (e.g., col., 3, lines 15 – 24); and

an application/control unit that (e.g., computer using software, col., 3, lines 25 – 44),

causes individual symbols corresponding to individuals and device symbols

corresponding to devices to be displayed on the screen of said display unit (e.g., figure 2A, figure 2B, col., 4, lines 17 – 32),

said application/control unit (e.g., computer using software, col., 3, lines 25 – 44), when an instruction is given externally via said input unit (e.g., col., 3, lines 5 – 24) to link a desired first device symbol among the device symbols displayed on the screen to a specific individual symbol corresponding to the desired individual (e.g., col., 4, lines 10- 48), specifies an individual description of the desired individual corresponding to the mapped specific individual symbol as a

Art Unit: 2154

specific individual description (e.g., col., 6, lines 14 – 43, figure 2A), gains access to a database that is present on the network (e.g., col., 6, lines 52 – 66), obtains a device description mapped to the specific individual description out of mapping information (e.g., col., 5, lines 53 – 64), which is stored in said database and regards mapping of a plurality of individual descriptions to device descriptions expressing said plurality of devices present on the network (e.g., col., 6, lines 52 – 66), and causes at least one of the obtained device description and a second device symbol representing a device (e.g., col., 6, lines 25 – 49) expressed by the obtained device description to be displayed on the screen of said display unit (e.g., col., 4, lines 4-48, abstract, figures 1-2).

Hamner does not specifically mention about mapping to a desired person, individual symbol corresponding to person and individual information corresponding to the selected person. Minasi, discloses the well-known concept of mapping to a desired person (e.g., assignment of user specific information, page 349, table, 6.1, pages 350-351, figure 6.9, page 364) using person symbol (e.g., symbols for Eric, Darcee, Administrator, etc, figure 6.15, page 372) and the selected person information (e.g., Eric being research assistant, etc, figure 6.15, page 372, user information, page 349, table, 6.1, pages 350-351, figure 6.9, page 364),

Hamner also discloses said control unit in the case where a device represented by the first device symbol keeps data, causes data symbols representing respective data kept in the device to be displayed in a specific area on the screen of said display unit (e.g., figure 2A, figure 2B, col., 4, lines 17 – 32), which is different from an area in which at least one of the obtained device description and corresponding second device symbol is displayed (e.g., figure 2A, figure 2B, col., 4, lines 17 – 32).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Hamner with the teachings of Minasi in order to facilitate assigning person specific information because the usage of individual person symbol and person information would help identify individual person symbol and correspondingly manage the information for the individual person. The user symbol would help the user manage its own personal settings of the desired items.

Hamner and Minasi do not specifically mention about mapping one software item to another software item. Person, discloses well-known concept of mapping one software item to another software item (e.g., drag and drop method can be used to drag one software item and drop on another software item, page 105 – page 107).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Hamner and Minasi with the teachings of Person in order to facilitate mapping one software item to another software item because dragging a software item and dropping it on another software item would help mapping of a user symbol to the device symbol. Dragging a device symbol on the user's symbol or the window containing the user's personal settings would be an easier way of mapping a device to the desired user.

Hamner and Minasi do not specifically mention about a database in a server connected to the network. IDEHARA discloses well-known concept of a database in a server / apparatus connected to the network (e.g., paragraph 148, page 10, figures 24 and 29).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Hamner, Minasi and Person with the teachings of IDEHARA in order to facilitate utilizing a database in a server / apparatus over the network

because the server / apparatus would help connect to the network. The database would help utilize the server / apparatus resources and the database would help store information.

Hamner also discloses said application/control unit in the case where the device causing data symbols representing respective data kept in the device to be displayed in a specific area on the screen of said display unit (e.g., figure 2A, figure 2B, col., 4, lines 17 – 32), which is an area in which at least one of the obtained device description and the corresponding second device symbol is displayed (e.g., figure 2A, figure 2B, col., 4, lines 17 – 32).

Hamner, Minasi, Person and IDEHARA do not specifically mention about different areas. Malkin discloses usage of communications path abstraction unit along with different (e.g., col., 4, lines 31 – 48, col., 1, lines 51 – 67, col., 6, lines 3 – 46, col., 4, lines 9 – 48).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Hamner, Person, Minasi and IDEHARA with the teachings of Malkin in order to facilitate usage of different areas because the different areas would support displaying information as per the area specific information.

7. As per claims 15, 16, Hamner, Person, Minasi and IDEHARA teach the claimed limitations as rejected above. Hamner, Person and Minasi do not specifically mention about the claimed subject matter of claims 15 and 16.

IDEHARA teaches when an individual description of the desired person is externally input as a specific individual description via said input unit (e.g., figures 9 and 25, paragraph 131, col., 8), gaining access to a database that is present in said server (e.g., paragraph 148, page 10, figures 24 and 29), obtaining a device description mapped to the input specific individual

Art Unit: 2154

description out of mapping information (e.g., figures 16 and 17, paragraph 132, col.,3) which is stored in said database and regards mapping of a plurality of individual descriptions to device descriptions expressing said plurality of devices present on the network (e.g., figure 21, paragraph 142), and causing at least one of the obtained device description and a device symbol representing a device expressed by the obtained device description to be displayed on the screen of said display unit (e.g., figures 25 and 26, paragraph 151),

when an instruction is given externally via said input unit to select a specific individual symbol corresponding to the desired person among the individual symbols displayed on the screen (e.g., figures 9 and 25, paragraph 131, col., 8), specifying an individual description of the desired person corresponding to the selected specific individual symbol as a specific individual description (e.g., figures 16 and 17, paragraph 132, col.,3), gaining access to a database that is present in said server (e.g., paragraph 148, page 10, figures 24 and 29), obtaining a device description mapped to the specific individual description out of mapping information (e.g., figure 21, paragraph 142), which is stored in said database and regards mapping of a plurality of individual descriptions to device descriptions expressing said plurality of devices present on the network (e.g., figures 25 and 26, paragraph 151), and causes at least one of the obtained device description and a device symbol representing a device expressed by the obtained device description to be displayed on the screen of said display unit (e.g., figures 9 and 25, paragraph 131, col., 8).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Hamner, Person and Minasi with the teachings of IDEHARA because IDEHARA's teachings would facilitate handling of device description

Art Unit: 2154

information for an individual description information because the external input using keyboard would help enter specific individual description of the desired person and a database would help store the mapping information including a plurality of individual descriptions and device descriptions for the plurality of devices present on the network. The mapping information would help access a device description mapped to the specific individual description. The device description and device symbol information would help display the device related information on the screen of the display unit.

8. As per claims 25, 26, Hamner, Person, Minasi, IDEHARA and Malkin teach the claimed limitations as rejected above. Hamner, Person and Minasi do not specifically mention about the claimed subject matter of claims 25 and 26.

IDEHARA teaches when an individual description of the desired person is externally input as a specific individual description via said input unit (e.g., figures 9 and 25, paragraph 131, col., 8), gaining access to a database that is present in an apparatus (e.g., paragraph 148, page 10, figures 24 and 29) connected to the network or in said device retrieving apparatus (e.g., figures 2 and 33, paragraph 43, col., 3), obtaining a device description mapped to the input specific individual description out of mapping information (e.g., figures 16 and 17, paragraph 132, col., 3) which is stored in said database and regards mapping of a plurality of individual descriptions to device descriptions expressing said plurality of devices present on the network (e.g., figure 21, paragraph 142), and causing at least one of the obtained device description and corresponding second device symbol representing a device expressed by the obtained device

Art Unit: 2154

description to be displayed on the screen of said display unit (e.g., figures 25 and 26, paragraph 151),

when an instruction is given externally via said input unit to select a specific individual symbol corresponding to the desired person among the individual symbols displayed on the screen (e.g., figures 9 and 25, paragraph 131, col., 8), specifying an individual description of the desired person corresponding to the selected specific individual symbol as a specific individual description (e.g., figures 16 and 17, paragraph 132, col.,3), gaining access to a database that is present in an apparatus (e.g., paragraph 148, page 10, figures 24 and 29) connected to the network or in said device retrieving apparatus (e.g., figure 21, paragraph 142), obtaining a device description mapped to the specific individual description out of mapping information (e.g., figure 21, paragraph 142), which is stored in said database and regards mapping of a plurality of individual descriptions to device descriptions expressing said plurality of devices present on the network (e.g., figures 25 and 26, paragraph 151), and causes at least one of the obtained device description and a device symbol representing a device expressed by the obtained device description to be displayed on the screen of said display unit (e.g., figures 9 and 25, paragraph 131, col., 8).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Hamner, Person, Malkin and Minasi with the teachings of IDEHARA because IDEHARA's teachings would facilitate handling of device description information for an individual description information because the external input using keyboard would help enter specific individual description of the desired person and a database would help store the mapping information including a plurality of individual descriptions and device

Art Unit: 2154

descriptions for the plurality of devices present on the network. The mapping information would help access a device description mapped to the specific individual description. The device description and device symbol information would help display the device related information on the screen of the display unit.

9. Claims 13, 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hamner, in view of Minasi, Person, Malkin and IDEHARA in view of Hogan et al. 5,414,809 (Hereinafter Hogan).

10. As per claim 13, Hamner, Person, Minasi and IDEHARA teach the claimed limitations as rejected above. IDEHARA also teaches mapping information including the device positions - related information with regard to mapping of positions related to devices to the device descriptions (e.g., different devices, fax machines, printers, etc., network devices location in the building, i.e., floor location, figure 25, paragraphs 130 -154), and said application/control unit (computer using software, paragraphs 130 -154) specifies a position mapped to the specific individual description (e.g., assigning of a fax machine, a printer or a network device from a desired floor location for an individual, paragraphs 130 -154), reads a device description mapped to the specified position out of the device positions-related information (e.g., accessing of the database for a fax machine, printer or a network device from a desired floor location for an individual, paragraphs 130 - 154), and obtains the read-out device description as the device description mapped to the specific individual description (e.g., display of an assigned network device, i.e., fax machine, a printer floor location for an individual, paragraphs 134 -154). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to

Art Unit: 2154

combine the teachings of Hamner, Person, Malkin and Minasi with the teachings of IDEHARA in order to facilitate handling of device position-related information because the information of location available for the device for an individual would help select the device and have it linked in the device selection.

Hamner, Person, Minasi, Malkin and IDEHARA do not specifically mention about individual positions-related information with regard to mapping of positions related to individuals to individual descriptions. Hogan teaches individual positions-related information with regard to mapping of positions related to individuals to the individual descriptions (e.g., displaying, entering, mapping and storing of an individual floor location for an individual, figure 5, col., 46, line 60 - col., 55, line 10). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Hamner, Person, Minasi, Malkin and IDEHARA with the teachings of Hogan in order to facilitate individual positions-related information with regard to mapping of positions related to individuals to the individual descriptions because the information about an individual including the location of an individual's office would help link with an individual's other information and the referenced information would help individual information displayed on the computer monitor when necessary.

11. As per claims 23, Hamner, Person, Minasi, Malkin and IDEHARA teach the claimed limitations as rejected above. IDEHARA also teaches mapping information including the device positions -related information with regard to mapping of positions related to devices to the device descriptions (e.g., different devices, fax machines, printers, etc., network devices location in the building, i.e., floor location, figure 25, paragraphs 130 -154), and said control unit

Art Unit: 2154

(computer using software) specifying a position mapped to the specific individual description (e.g., assigning of a fax machine, a printer or a network device from a desired floor location for an individual, paragraphs 130 -154), reading a device description mapped to the specified position out of the device positions-related information (e.g., accessing of the database for a fax machine, printer or a network device from a desired floor location for an individual, paragraphs 130 - 154), and obtaining the read-out device description as the device description mapped to the specific individual description (e.g., display of an assigned network device, i.e., fax machine, a printer floor location for an individual, paragraphs 134 -154). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Hamner, Person, Malkin and Minasi with the teachings of IDEHARA in order to facilitate handling of device position-related information because the information of location available for the device for an individual would help select the device and have it linked in the device selection.

Hamner, Person, Minasi, Malkin and IDEHARA do not specifically mention about individual positions-related information with regard to mapping of positions related to individuals to the individual descriptions. Hogan teaches individual positions-related information with regard to mapping of positions related to individuals to the individual descriptions (e.g., displaying, entering, mapping and storing of an individual floor location for an individual, figure 5, col., 46, line 60 - col., 55, line 10). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Hamner, Person, Minasi, Malkin and IDEHARA with the teachings of Hogan in order to facilitate individual positions-related information with regard to mapping of positions related to

Art Unit: 2154

individuals to the individual descriptions because the information about an individual including the location of an individual's office would help link with an individual's other information and the referenced information would help individual information displayed on the computer monitor when necessary.

Conclusion

Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers and/or paragraphs and/or sections and/or page numbers in the reference(s) as applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings of the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant in preparing responses, to fully consider the references in entirety, as potentially teaching, all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage, as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the Examiner.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Haresh Patel whose telephone number is (571) 272-3973. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Follansbee can be reached on (571) 272-3964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Art Unit: 2154

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Haresh Patel

Haresh Patel

May 12, 2006